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PRESS RELEASE

First Career Corner Opens for Primary Students

The USAID Primary Education Project today opened a Career Corner at St. Kliment Ohridski Primary School in Bitola to enhance career education with career information and materials for both teachers and students. This is the first of six Corners that USAID will pilot in different municipalities in Macedonia to help students become aware at an early age of the relationships between school and employment, and the relevance of their learning.

"With career education, students can learn about different career opportunities and how these relate to their strengths, weaknesses and interests. It will also help them think about what classes they should take to help pursue their dream jobs," said LeAnna Marr, USAID Education Office Director.

Exposing students to career education at an early age can help them and their parents to make informed choices at key stages in their education, including the selection of elective subjects in primary school; high school vs. vocational school; whether to pursue a degree program; and appropriate employment priorities.

In addition to information about future educational opportunities and different careers, the Career Corner will provide students with career counseling and assessments to help identify personal interests, values and skills. For parents, the Corners will have information such as parent guides, and will provide individual counseling upon request.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The USAID Primary Education Project (PEP), implemented by the Academy for Educational Development (AED), works with all public primary schools in Macedonia. The project seeks to improve the quality of instruction and increase employment skills of students. The overall goal of the USAID Education Program is to strengthen education in Macedonia and to support decentralization efforts, as Macedonia seeks entrance to the European Union.

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.